

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, April 17, 1877, with transcript

Letter from Miss Mabel Hubbard to Mr. Alexander Graham Bell. 10 East 14th., Tuesday.  
1877 My dear Alec:

No letter in Visible Speech or in any other writing decipherable or not, has come. I begin to fear you spent the night in New York after all.

I have watched the papers until this morning when the gentlemen marched off with them, without a single thought of the poor ladies left on tip toe with curiosity, but have found no notice of or about your lecture. Van Derlip seems to have simply withdrawn the advertisement that is all, the best thing too, I think -

Alec dear do you really mind so much my wearing black after our Wedding? I spoke to Mamma about it, she said nothing at the time but today told me that if you did not feel very strongly about it she wanted me to retain my black, not mourning. You English, for you are English in this wear mourning for a very short time here it is the custom to put it on seldom and then for a long time. She said she felt very strongly about it, if I put on colors it would seem as if you had taken me away from my friends that I no longer cared anything about them and their sorrow. Berta and Grace wear black until winter, the Gertrudes until next winter and I should feel badly if my dream separated me from my own family. I wish our wedding could be a bright one. I felt last summer that if I could not be married then the chances were that mine would be a sad wedding. But since Grandmamma has died how is it possible for us to have gayety and brightness. We none of us have got over the sadness and sorrow. I will not wear my heavy Henrietta that you think so sombre, and never had any intention to wear crepe . All I want is to wear pretty black and white silk and lavender in the evening. That will not be mourning and will be bright and pretty and yet not so much so that I and my friends will feel separated. Alec dear if you on your part still wish

## Library of Congress

me to put on colors I will do so. I don't want you to say, "Do just as you like", I want you to think over the pros and cons and say at least "I had rather myself you wore bright colors, but if you and your family feel thus, I think you should wear black. I am quite willing and do not mind."

Mamma and all the rest of us have spent the day going way down to Fulton Ferry twice after some thin Japanese stuff for dresses, a black and a white are for me and a black one for Auntie. You gentlemen have no idea how much trouble and weariness it costs only to get the material for the dresses you so much admire. I had no idea how much the bright dresses of women relieve our sombre streets. We went down to the part of the city devoted exclusively to the men, where women never come, and such a shabby dull looking affairs the men were. I should think they would get sick of their own society. I am going around the corner now to get the "Life and Letters of Baron Stockman," in German, I believe it is most interesting, I only hope not so much so that I shall not have patience to stop and translate it.

Mamma is waiting, — With much love, Ever yours, Can find neither Baron Stockman or any other g nice book will look again. Promise me to take your meals regularly whether you want them or not, if you have a headache at least take tea and toast — never go without food in any case. You may write your letters Sunday morning and afternoon but not in the evening or after six P.M.